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15 September 1964

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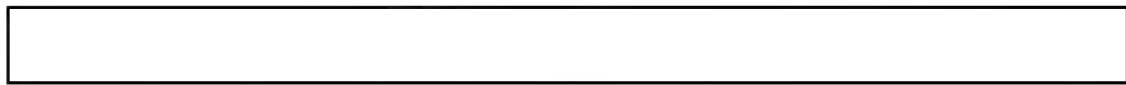
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
RELATING TO NATIONAL SECURITY

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State Dept., JCS reviews completed.

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15 September 1964

DAILY BRIEF

*South Vietnam: The Viet Cong may try to take early advantage of the dislocations in the wake of Sunday's abortive coup.

The Communist's National Front for the Liberation of South Vietnam yesterday urged its forces to take the initiative while the "US lackeys are tearing each other to pieces." The Front broadcast called for stronger attacks in the countryside against government troops and strategic hamlets. It also urged intensified agitation in the cities for "democratic rights" and an end to the "US aggressive" war.

US military advisers are worried that IV Corps south of Saigon may be particularly vulnerable. Troops from that area, who were involved in the coup, are returning to their posts, but they are believed to be tired and dispirited from the weekend events. Their morale may suffer further from the uncertain status of their commanders and the probability of new command shifts.

In Saigon, Premier Khanh continues to be buffeted by demands from the public and the military. Student groups have been calling for a widespread purge of the government and the "construction of a genuinely democratic regime." At the press conference announcing the collapse of the coup, one of Khanh's key military supporters read a resolution on behalf of several officers requesting the elimination of "rotten elements" in the army and administration whose presence casts doubt on the government's intentions.

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Cyprus: [General Grivas reportedly plans to dissolve all unauthorized groups of Greek Cypriot irregulars]

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[redacted] Grivas-- as commander of Greek Cypriot forces--will use the new Cypriot conscription law to confiscate "illegal" weapons. This would include those weapons held by the crypto-Communist group of several hundred men loyal to Vasos Lyssarides, a confidant of President Makarios. Any such action would be a setback for Makarios, who apparently has regarded Lyssarides' group as a potential personal bodyguard]

In Ankara, the government has taken note of Makarios' agreement to allow food shipments to Cyprus and has announced that a shipment is ready to go as soon as detailed arrangements are worked out.

[redacted]

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NOTES

Yugoslavia-Rumania: Yugoslavia is encouraging Rumania's opposition to Moscow's plans for a preparatory conference of Communist parties on 15 December. According to the Yugoslav first secretary in Bucharest, Tito assured Dej of his support during their talks at the Iron Gates ceremonies last week. Tito's opposition to the conference stems from his fear that it might inhibit the freedom of maneuver currently enjoyed by Yugoslav and other Communist parties.

Western Europe: The Common Market countries are discussing this week whether to try to hold the line on credits for the Communist bloc. The EEC's Executive Commission is expected to urge member countries to stick to their previously agreed five-year limit despite London's recent grant of a 15-year credit to the USSR, but there are apparently considerable pressures in both West Germany and France to grant longer-term credits. According to a French official, the French Finance Ministry favors holding the line, but the Foreign Ministry is inclined to extend the credit period. A Bonn official has said West Germany may find it difficult to avoid following the French in any breach of the five-year limit.]

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Cuba: The Cuban airline informed BOAC on 10 September that it plans to institute weekly flights to Nassau on 21 September. Bahamian authorities cannot deny landing rights to the Cubans because of provisions in a British-Cuban air agreement. The authorities plan to isolate passengers in transit, however, and will try to keep traffic to a minimum in hopes of limiting the use of these flights by Castroite subversives traveling to and from Cuba.

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Israel-Syria: [The chief of staff of the UN truce supervision organization fears that new incidents may be in the making along the Israeli-Syrian border. The Israelis evidently intend in the next few days to resume cultivation in a disputed area. Local UN officers are fearful that the Syrians may fire at Israelis who enter the area instead of appealing to the UN machinery as they have promised to do. UN officials believe that in this case the Israelis might stage a "retaliatory action."]

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